

COVENTRY

VILLAGE NEWS



November 2000

THE NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY VILLAGE NEIGHBORS INC.

From the President's Pen

It has been very difficult to pick-up a newspaper or a magazine for the last few months without being faced with two stories. The Napster court case and the Presidential election have garnered a fair amount of column inches because they have an impact on all of our lives. You would expect that two stories so diametrically opposed could never be linked. They are not as far apart as you might think.

After having seen the new movie, "Almost Famous" recounting the unusual adolescence of film critic-cum director Cameron Crowe, I started thinking about what music "used to be". As I am about the same age as the subject of the film, it brought back memories of the way music was presented to the public in the past. Radio stations were in a real competition for your ear. AOR (Album Oriented Rock) presented by local stations, WNCR and WMMS (the old, real WMMS) regularly played the entire album. They did not repeat one song a multiple of times. Instead, they allowed the listener to enjoy all of the cuts. The music was judged on a whole. Pop music was still very much available. WGCL (and probably others I can't recall) provided "bubble gum for the ears". Their rotation was a bit more repetitive, but they did offer a reasonably wide variety of new songs. Mom and Dad could listen to WDOK and WJW. A couple of stations played R&B. Your country cousin could listen to WGAR and your long hair (in the "very old" sense of the word) neighbor tuned into WCLV. (Something's DON'T change!) There were many record stores around competing for your dollars. There were also a variety of record labels experimenting with the type of sounds and artists you might be interested in next year.

The great music homogenization soon took place. AOR disappeared. Instead of independent, progressive DJ's and like-minded Program Directors, "playlists" became the buzzword of the industry. One-hit, "Superstars" appeared. Radio stations started sounding alike. Oldies cropped up everywhere. Sameness prevailed. Believe-it-or-not, I can still re-

SOMEONE LIKES YOU! THEY REALLY LIKE YOU!

Anonymous readers have informed us of three homes that deserve our admiration. Last newsletter, we asked if anyone knew of a home in his or her neighborhood that deserved special recognition. We are happy to congratulate the following houses (and their owners). Your neighbors have noticed the extra care you take in your property!

- 1806 Wilton Road - "...always looks nice."
- 2976 Lincoln Boulevard - "...new outdoor lighting of trees is special."
- 2995 Lincoln Boulevard - "...a fabulous new garden in the front yard!"

Think your neighbor deserves recognition? Drop us a note. We'll make sure they know how you feel.

member the first time I heard the Pointer Sisters on WMMS. I am not sure of the year (late 70's), but I was at the intersection of Fairmont and Warrensville Center Road. It so startled me; I checked the setting on my car radio button and was honked from behind by an impatient driver who didn't realize that the world had changed. Focus Groups and Corporate Boobs would now determine what we hear. Professional, sometimes-eclectic radio personalities would disappear and be replaced by happy-talking clowns, charged with dishing out gruel for the masses.

People are not however, easily moved from their preferences, listening or otherwise. While the music companies might love for us to listen to, Stevie Wonder, "All day, all night!" We typically want for more. Shawn Fanning, creator of Napster steps in to rescue. You don't know if you'll like the new Wycleff Jean release. No radio station is playing it. Since the advent of CD's,

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music is now more expensive than the LP ever was. It takes a leap of faith to invest in music never heard. Napster has become the answer. If the courts eventually rule against young Mr. Fanning, it doesn't matter; another, then another young inventor will continually push the envelope. The record companies have made a bed and are now complaining that people are wrinkling the sheets while sleeping in it.

At the time Cameron Crowe was writing about the Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin, I was entranced with George McGovern. Before he placed an unexpected second in New Hampshire, I was expounding his virtues. When he accepted the nomination of the Democratic Party, I was one of the few people in America watching (it was around 2:00 a.m.). I worked in his presidential campaign sending handwritten letters to my neighbors. I mourned for America after his loss.

A few other Presidential candidates caught my interest. I had always felt that Mo Udall would have made a brilliant President. I had similar emotions about John Anderson. It has, unfortunately been a long time since those elections. Since McGovern showed the parties how the primary process worked, the rules have changed and Professional Campaigners have taken the place of Public Servants. For a candidate that has an appreciation for the good that an office like the Presidency can provide, it is now very difficult to rise to the top. Instead we get to vote for dolts like Walter Mondale and George Bush. Those who aspire and ascend to the Presidency often times are placing the last notch in their "public service" belt. This is how Mondale, Dole, Bush (Sr.) and Gore got their nomination. It's the main reason why they were or would have been worthless Presidents. They are missing the passion, drive and goals required to be great leaders.

During my voting life, a few candidates have combined the required passion and the necessary political savvy to ascend the daunting presidential ladder. Ronald Reagan had a vision for America with which few others could compete. His direction struck a nerve with the public. Bill Clinton was also able to convey a deep-felt passion for where he wanted to take America. If they are to be considered successful, it was due to their ability to honestly present beliefs that connected with the rest of us Americans. Unfortunately, this is not typically the case.

Usually, the professional political operatives prevent an election that allows real choice. If the Republican's were smart, they would have nominated someone other than Dole in 1996 (...or at the least the castrated old D.C. vet they presented. The sharp witted

WANT TO SAVE A TREE AND STILL GET YOUR COVENTRY NEWS?

We are in the process of creating a Coventry Neighbors e-mail listing. If you enjoy receiving e-mail better than snail-mail, we can begin sending your copy of the Coventry Neighbor News using this method. If you would like us to change, drop us an e-mail message! You can contact Jeff Dross at his new e-dress:



ladrossceur@core.com

HAS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED?

Life is hectic. Things get overlooked. Probably the last thing on your mind is your Coventry Neighbor's membership. (We're crushed, but we'll survive.) Check out the mailing label on the front of this issue. Your expiration date is clearly indicated. Before you forget, why not send in your renewal? We'd like to continue working for our neighborhood and your very reasonable donation helps in that cause. If you're a new reader, why not join? We're working for you!

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS CONTRIBUTES

At the last meeting of Coventry Neighbor's, it was decided to donate \$200 to the Public Art Project being planned for the commons area at the southeast corner of Euclid Heights Boulevard and Coventry Road (in front of the library). Artist Barry Gunderson has proposed a sculpture of two figures rising from the landscaping and joined to form an arc over the walkway.

Grants, Public Funding, Donations and Gifts have been received and financing is about 75% complete. If you would like to make this artistic vision a reality, send your financial help.

Please make your check payable to P.E.A.C.E. and mail to:

P.E.A.C.E., Inc.
c/o Susanne Apple

Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118

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Ford VP running mate would have ripped Clinton a new @\$\$\$****.) Clinton was easy pickin's. If the Democrats were wiser, Dukakis wouldn't have been their choice in 1988. A better candidate could have defeated Bush between "Hill Street Blues" station breaks.

All this leads us to Election 2000. George Bush, (Jr.! Can you tell them apart?) and Al Gore is presented for our consideration. Neither with a right or a vision to be here, but each standing at that very place, nonetheless. In a contemplative mood, ask anyone, Republican or Democrat if they would have rather voted in a McCain-Bradley election. If the result come back less than 80%, you've got weird friends or they are political operatives.

Our politicians have become as homogenized as our musical stars. Al Gore is Brittany Sprears. George Bush, Jr. (can't forget the JR) is Eminem. Each sings tunes designed to appeal to the widest possible audience, without offending the widest possible audience, which ironically serve to alienate the widest of audiences.

Record executives blame Napster for declining sales. Pundits complain that voters don't participate. Polling hours and Internet downloads are not the reason. Crappy music and uninspired candidates are a much more serious affront to our sanity and democracy.

Happily, at the root levels of each area there remains cause for some hope.

Local politicians work tirelessly for little recognition and less pay to serve their community. They receive support or lack thereof, because their voting neighbors have seen and measured their accomplishments. The higher up the electoral ladder, the more they separate from the voter. The more value the office can provide to non-voters, the lower the concern for the desires of the electorate.

While commercial radio is now designed around playing five Billy Joel songs, four by Whitney Houston, weekend Elvis retrospectives and a few other inoffensive pieces of music, College radio continues to stretch boundaries. Case's WRUW, Cleveland State's WSCB and John Carroll's WUJC all play ground-breaking music. Private recording labels take chances on unknown talent. Passionate artists finance their own careers working second jobs.

Local elected officials and independent artist do the grunt work for us while the major label artists and Presidential candidates get the glory. Do yourself a favor this year. Pay attention to your vote for State Representative this year. Read about those candidates.

Study the concerns they express. Spend time on the Internet and determine who'll represent your interests best. Investigate and vote, really vote for a candidate that will represent your concerns on the State School Board. Pay attention to these races at the end of the ballot, instead of the front. These are the candidates that will really serve and support you. On your way home from the polls, stop in at a place that sells tapes and CD's and buy one by an artist whom you've never heard. The candidate and the artist, but more importantly you will appreciate it more than you realize.

Jeffrey R. Dross

President, Coventry Neighbors



URBAN OUTFITTERS COMING?

The signs look positive that national retailer, Urban Outfitters will be coming to CoventryYard. The current owners have sold the property to the group currently redeveloping Shaker Square. It is their hope to expand the size of the building by moving the back wall further into the service alley. This would also entail a slightly different trash removal system. The Board of Zoning Appeal has already given the developers the variance they requested. It now needs approval of the entire city council. If things go well, the new owners are prepared to start construction immediately.

The Inn on Coventry is expected to remain in the building. La Cave du Vine and Café D'Oro have short-term leases, so their position is tenuous. We can only hope that the run-down Arabica bids Coventry, "Adieu." What was once an exciting and trend-setting place now looks sad and desperate. In need of a facelift (or at the least, a good cleaning) it is an embarrassment to the exciting revitalization that is taking place at the center of our neighborhood. It is time to go and allow memories to cleanse this important place in our history.



DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR T-SHIRT!
 MAIL \$15 (T-SHIRT ONLY) OR \$20.00 (T-SHIRT & MEMBERSHIP)
 TO : BOB KLEMENC
 c/o COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, [REDACTED]
 CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO 44118

A VERY SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES NIGHT

Our September meeting played host to candidates running for the 9th District Ohio House of Representatives and the 11th District State School Board. Each candidate was given five minutes to address the group. Questions and answers followed. Here is a brief recap of some of the comments made by the candidates in attendance:

Independent candidate for State Representative, **Alan Rapoport** (and former president of Coventry Neighbor's) stated that he believes school funding is the, "Number one issue," this new legislative assembly will tackle. In that light, he reminded those in attendance that, due to term limits, 40 out of the 90 legislators will be a first-term participant. He believes his many years of political experience and his optimistic attitude uniquely qualifies him to excel and lead in this unique legislative environment.
(www.arapoport.com)

Rapoport's opponent, Democrat **Claudette Woodard** (a past CH-UH School Board member) clicked off a litany of issues she feels will demand attention in the upcoming term of the Ohio legislature. Job retention, working for the benefit of older cities in our state, the First Suburban Tax Consortium, the Home Enhancement Loan Program, but probably the most important issue is preparing our children for the future. She believes public officials have heard the pleas of their constituencies. It is now the responsibility of the elected official to respond.

The first candidate to speak that is running for a seat on the State School Board was **Shirley Hawke**. Ms. Hawke is a retired employee of Ohio Bell who moved from "messenger to Manager" in her 28 years of service. She has served on the Cleveland School Board and the State School Board on the recommendation of C.J. Prentiss when Prentiss moved to the Legislature. She is upset with the disparaging comments made about education in the Cleveland, East Cleveland, CH-UH system. With her experience, (and the free time her retirement affords her) she felt she could make a difference in Columbus. Hawke promises to visit every Superintendent, PTA and Teachers Union before going to her first State School Board meeting.

State School Board candidate, **Jacqueline Swails** provides a Hollywood-like resume. She is a dedicated and

hard-working mother of five Cleveland city School student. As a concerned parent, she started to attend meeting and became involved in the politics of education. After reading a "Misappropriation of Funds" report, she became angry, ran for and won a seat on the Cleveland School Board. During the receivership of the city schools she lost her position, but she continues to volunteer and tutor children at all levels. She is particularly interested in insuring the education of students "at risk". She wants educators to be responsible for the development of students. Class size reduction and insurance that the physical space for learning is supportive of the process have also attracted Ms. Swails' attention.

Virgil Brown, Jr. has been an attorney for twenty years. He has served as a Referee and Trustee in Federal Bankruptcy Court. He believes that school funding is the biggest challenge facing all elected officials that grapple with this important issue. He believes it is important to raise academic standards and fully supports Proficiency Tests as a way to measure a student's progress and a school districts' ability to meet the demands of those financing them. Cleveland is a large area and it has a large importance. He believes it deserves a strong voice and representative.

Charles Greanoff may have left the most daunting impression on the assembly. His recitation of facts in support of public schools and against Charter Schools and overzealous proficiency testing set him apart from the other candidates. He believes it is crucial to elect someone that believes and supports public school education. He also pointed out some of the flaws in our current method of measuring performance. The state doesn't track dropouts and they don't appropriately measure proficiency for those students that use English as a second language. In addition, while some school systems have the financial wherewithal to "pre-eliminate" some students from the proficiency results (due to their level of IQ) most are forced to include these students and therefore lower the net result. In all, his address was the most controversial.
(www.greanoff.com)

Shaker Heights mother, **Sharon Midura** wants to be the voice of parent working for children in Ohio. She believes that class size is of utmost importance and that "throwing money" at the problem may not be the best answer. Midura currently works with children and wants to work for all children in the state.
(www.sharonmidura.com)

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Cleveland Heights resident, **Glenn Billington** believes there is a common thread that runs between the State School board and the individual community boards. He thinks it is important to schedule regular meetings of both. He also feels it is important to be familiar and knowledgeable of the State legislature so that the required changes in the tax laws can be carried through. He believes it is crucial to shift the tax burden from Real Estate Tax to Income Tax, thus eliminating the community infighting that has darkened the discussion. He is also certain that the Proficiency Testing should only be used as a measuring stick for the needs of the student, not the value of the student. (www.billington2000.com)

Ignatius James De Mio became active in the politics of schools when his right to vote became void during the takeover of the Cleveland City School system. While he continues to pay real estate taxes to support the system, he no longer has a voice. The fight against "taxation without representation" is one of the foundations of our democracy and he hopes to remedy the condition if elected. De Mio also pledges to fight against the city, county and state funding of privately held commercial projects in favor of the appropriate funding of school students.

State School Board Incumbent, **Charles Byrne** believes his experience is the reason you should return him to service for an additional term. He reminded everyone that he has been an advocate of the schools for over 45 years through personal experience with seven children, sixteen grandchildren spread over school district in five states. He is especially concerned about the facilities used in the education process. Byrne also supports alternates to conventional schooling such as vouchers and charter schools.

We are a very fortunate constituency. Each of these candidates will serve us well. The task we have is determining which carries the message we want to have expressed. We may have the more complex assignment.

Republican candidate for Ohio Representative, Theodore Guerry and School Board candidates Al Bailey and Sam Zingale did not respond to our invitation.



AN UPDATE FOR THE FRIENDS OF HEIGHTS ARTS COLLABORATIVE

The fall will be busy and we are very excited about the projects underway. If you would like to help with any of the activities of the Heights Arts Collaborative (HAC) projects, please call Peggy Spaeth at 932-5392 or Cathy Culp at 321-1615.

Thursday, October 19 ~ HAC & the CH-UH PTA met to discuss and plan an art competition for the public school K-12 students with the theme of "Portraits." CH-UH Main Library 7 p.m.

Monday, October 23 ~ HAC presents their mission, goals, current projects, and relationship with the Visioning process to the CH-UH Board of Education. Included in that presentation will be a request that the Board permit the HAC to assess the possible use of Longwood Stables as an arts center.

Saturday, November 11 ~ Entries are due for the Cedar Lee Mural Project between 1 and 6 p.m. at the Cedar Lee Theater. An opening reception featuring the models is Friday, November 17th from 7-9 p.m. at CH-UH Main Library. The winner will be announced on Friday, December 15 at the Cedar Lee Theater. All unsold entries can be picked up on Saturday, December 16. Call Peggy at 932-5392 for more information.

Friday, November 17 ~ Entries are due for the 2nd Birdhouse Art Show. Artists are asked to create Birdhouses of any material to be displayed at the Coventry Village Library and area businesses. Birdhouses will then be sold with all proceeds benefiting the building of the "Coventry Arch" by Barry Gunderson at the Coventry PEACE Park. A special opening for the Birdhouses takes place on Friday, December 8, 7-9 p.m. at the Coventry Village Library. All styles of birdhouses (functional or not) are welcome. Call Debbie at 371-5321 or April at 371-8845 for more information.

An exciting fall! We hope you can join us for as many of these events as possible. Don't forget to call if you'd like to help out! Volunteers are always welcome and appreciated!

**See you at the meeting
November 14
7:40
Coventry Library**

Coventry Village News is published by Coventry Neighbors, Inc. The newsletter is distributed free throughout Coventry Village. Mailed subscriptions are available. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:40 p.m. at the Coventry Village Library, Euclid Heights Boulevard. & Coventry Road.

When you join Coventry Neighbors, Inc. you can be sure of having a voice in shaping your neighborhood's future. Membership includes a subscription to the Coventry Village News.

Editor: Bruce Biddle

Editorial Board: Jeff Dross, Elsa Johnson, Bob Klemenc

How to reach us: You may contact us by mail at:

Coventry Neighbors Inc. or Coventry Village News
c/o Jeff Dross, President c/o Bruce Biddle, Editor

[Redacted]
Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44118 Cleveland Hts., OH 44118

Individual \$7.50 Family \$10 Senior Citizen \$5

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP CODE _____ PHONE _____

CNI needs street representatives to communicate with the local neighborhoods and assist with the delivery of the newsletter.

YES! I would like to assist CNI by becoming a CNI representative for my street.

Please return this form with your check to:

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

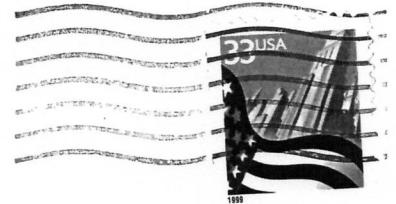
c/o Bob Klemenc

[Redacted]
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118

COVENTRY Village News

c/o Bruce Biddle, Editor

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Cleveland Heights, OH 44118



Michele J. Ladouceur Expires:11/9/2000

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